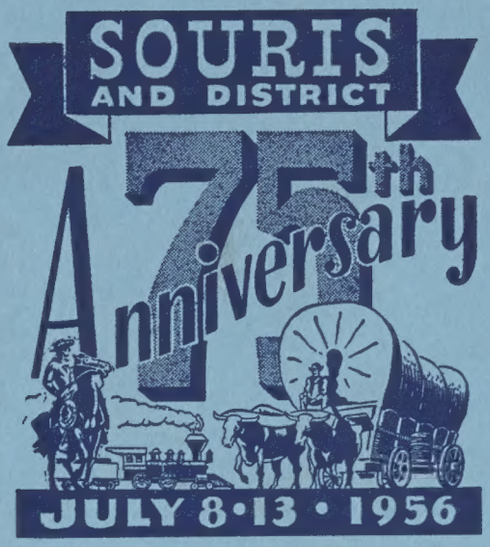


Souris Musical Memoirs

July 12th - 1956

8:15 p.m.

Souris Memorial Rink

$30
JA

Foreword

Tonight old and new friends are assembled again during our week of Souris Celebrations, to enjoy Souris Musical Memoirs. May this be for you one of the most entertaining evenings of your holiday here.

The participants in the program are largely Souris talent. To those I wish to convey my sincere thanks for the time they have given to make this a success. To those from out of town I extend a welcome and ask you to accept my grateful thanks.

It has been a delightful experience to work with the Concert Committee and all who have helped to produce this programme. Without their co-operation Musical Memoirs could not have been produced.

On behalf of the Concert Committee, my sincere thanks. Happy Memories to all.

MRS. E. H. McLEAN,
Convener Concert Committee.

NOTICE: NO SMOKING PLEASE.

A Salute to the Pioneer

THE PIONEER — Written by Herb Hicks, whose father was one of the early settlers of 1881.

The pioneer came to this district in eighteen eighty-one,
And each one picked a homestead for his place beneath the sun.
They started out with oxen to break the prairie sod,
To plan and reap a harvest by the mercies of our God.
The work was hard and heavy for the roots of grass were tough,
The oxen walked so slowly for the wallows made it rough.
But by working late and early each got his breaking done,
And that part of the contract had been conquered, had been won.

To build each man a shelter from cold and winter snow,
Sods were piled for four walls as high as the house should go.
The roof then sloping northward was laid with poles and grass,
With a stovepipe hole in the centre through which the smoke would pass.
The top was covered over with sods that were sometimes lapped,
To turn the rains that often came — thus was the sod house capped.
The window was built in the south wall, by day, to let in the light,
A door was fastened beside it and everything sealed up tight.
A table was placed in the centre — a bed by the side of the wall,
A stove, a chair and a box for bread, of furniture that was all.
The pioneer sat in his palace when the toils of day were done,
And that's how the district started, in eigheen eighty-one.

When the snows of winter were melted in the spring of eighty-two,
The water came ever upward as flood waters ever do.
One could scarcely visit his neighbor, though less than a mile away,
The rain came down in torrents and continued for many a day.
The banks could not hold the river; the tremendous rush of the Plum,
Raised water high near the townsite and still there was more to come.
Soon boats were seen o'er the Crescent, where baseball now is played,
The planting of grain on the breaking seemed endlessly delayed.
But the sunshine finally conquered and the land dried up again,
And the precious seed was broadcast where the water late had lain.
The growth was very rapid and the grain grew rank and tall,
But it simply would not ripen until so late in the fall.
Then a frost came on and froze it, making it poor for flour,
But the pioneer tried to save it and toiling hour by hour
Cut it with scythe and sickle; then tying the sheaves by hand,
Gathered, hauled and stacked it and again made ready the land.
For this was a "Next Year" country and a man might never know,
So he planned and hoped for the future while the land lay under the snow.

But progress was made in the struggle: the pioneer bettered his home,
Brought more land under tillage and wrote for his love to come.
Machines took the place of hand labor; the ox was displaced by the horse,
Good yields brought a problem tremendous — the problem was markets of course.
The place to deliver their grain was wearisome miles away,
To sell twenty bags would take often a great deal more than a day.
The trails of winter were heavy and blizzards would fill them with snow,
No fences; no phone poles to tell the direction that one should go.
And nights would be spent at a haystack or at some settler's domain,
But always a little improvement was bought through the sale of the grain.
A little was put in the stocking (providing it did not have holes);
A little laid by for the future (unknown was the system of doles).
The pioneer had to keep working, for the grasshopper lessened his gain.
The summers of merciless sunshine, cloudless, without any rain,
Made the going a little bit harder and tightened the belt once again.

There was frost, there was drought and grasshoppers, hail, and then came rust,
Enemies all of the homesteader, sufficient to weaken his trust.
But he struggled on in the conflict as all really great men do,
He had set his hand to the plowing and he saw the plowing through.
He has left us a golden heritage of land all ready for grain,
The top four inches — TILLED SOIL — source of a nation's gain.
Today with one single purpose, descendants from far and near,
Are all here to honor his memory — GIVE THANKS TO THE PIONEER.

—W. H. HICKS.

Executive

FRONT ROW — Mrs. T. Tobian, Mrs. E. McLean, Mr. N. Matheson, Mrs. W. McShane, Mrs. F. Shanks.

BACK ROW — John Janz, Mrs. C. Paintin, Mr. Elmer Webster, Mr. Forrest Brandon, Mrs. N. Styles, Mr. Bell Embree.

ABSENT — Mrs. V. Sangwine, Miss M. Buckley, Mr. D. Noton.

Program Convener — Mrs. E. McLean.

Secretary—Mrs. T. Tobain, (nee Ada Scarlet).

Accompanist — Mrs. W. McShane (nee Verna Bateman). Mrs. V. Sangwine, Mrs. Collinson, Mrs. Munroe, Mrs. N. R. Jasper.

Finance — Mr. N. Matheson.

Lighting — Mr. Elmer Webster.

P. A. System — Bell Embree.

Master of Ceremonies — Mr. Walter Richardson.

Programs — Mrs. W. Saunderson.

Act I

DIRECTOR — Mrs. E. McLean

ACC. — Mrs. W. McShane

FRONT ROW, L. to R. — Mrs. W. Boyes, Rachel Lorimer, Margaret Scott, Mrs. T. Johnson, Mrs. E. McLean, Mrs. J. Kingsmill, Mrs. W. McShane, Polly Styles, Pat. Curtis, Mrs. C. Curtis.

SECOND ROW — Mesdames W. Kerslake, D. Davidson, W. Walker, G. Dornian, F. L. Palcoarth, J. Long, A. Lang, Kaye Thompson, June Hill, Mrs. M. Stocks, Mrs. N. Styles.

THIRD ROW — Barry Diehl, Mr. D. Davison, Mr. E.. McLean, Mrs. W. Clear, Mrs. W. Early, Mrs. E. Webster, Donna Hill, F. Brandon, G. Jasper, T. Walker, W. Jasper.

BACK ROW — N. Styles, J. Kerslake, B. Sutter, R. Lorimer, R. Lang, R. Tanguay.

ABSENT — Mrs. Munroe, Janet Glover, Trudy Shanks, Mrs. J. Kerslake, Olive McMillan, J. Diehl, Mr. Conlin. Clayton Canning, Ted Walker, Wes. Jasper and Garfield Jasper.

Act II

Souris Jubilee Story

Clayton Canning, Ted Walker, Wes. Jasper and Garfield Jasper.

Words written by Mrs. Wes. Kerslake.

Tune: The Irish Jubilee.

Act III

School Daze

Mrs. Munroe — teacher.

FRONT—Mrs. W. Collinson, Mrs. C. Curtis, Mrs. S. Coxworth, Mrs. Wes. Kerslake.

BACK ROW — Orville Miller, Walter Collinson, Lloyd Bradley, Forrest Brandon.

SOLOIST — Mr. Conlin.

DIRECTOR—Mrs. G. McCulloch.

ABSENT — Mrs. Early.

Act IV

Scottish Dances

Mr. and Mrs. Hathaway and group from Dand, dancing:

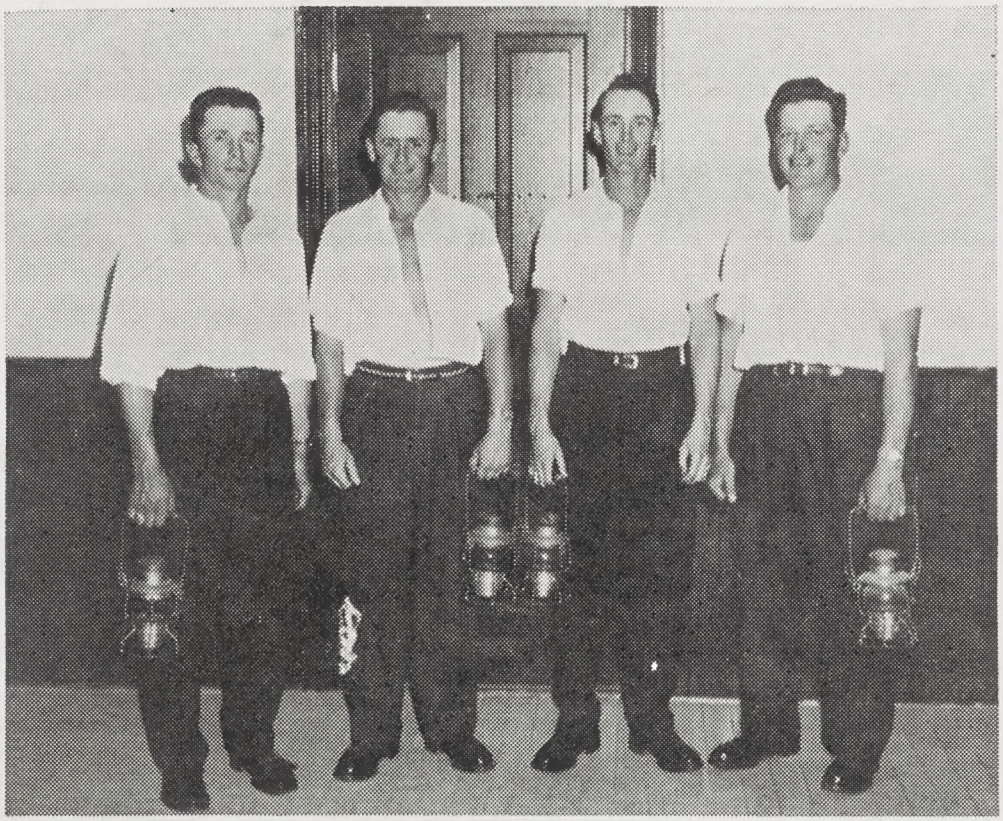
The Highland Fling,

The Sword Dance,

Scottish Reel.

Presentation of Elks' Musical Bursaries

Act V



Slee - P - R's

Wes. Jasper Clayton Canning Ted Walker Garfield Jasper

Workin' On the R.R.

Act VI

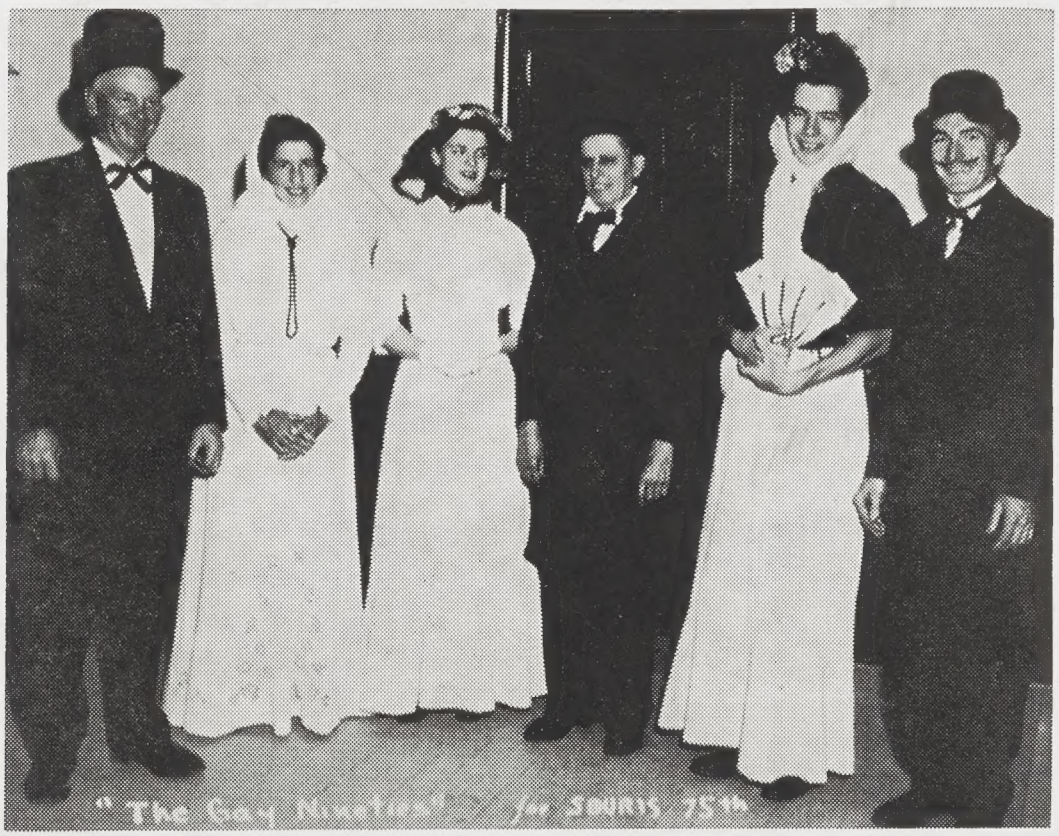
Dry Bones

FRONT ROW —
- Doug Jackson
- Bill Forsyth
- Jim Sanderson
- John Jasper
- Dennis Tanguay

BACK ROW —
- Wayne Waterman
- Tom Torbitt
- Fred Main
- Ron Saunderson

DIRECTOR —
- Mr. J. Forsyth

Act VII --- *Gay Nineties*



Mr. Earl Carlisle, Mrs. Earl Carlisle, Miss Isabey, Mr. Isabey, Barry Diehl, Reg. Lang.

1—"Bicycle Built for Two". (2)—"Merry Oldsmobile". (3)—"The Surrey with the Fringe On Top".

INTERMISSION — 10 MINUTES

Act VIII

Beach Belles and Water Buffaloes in "Beside the Sea"

Belles

Ruth Kitchen
Alice Eisler
Donna Christie
Marlene Walker
Ardythe Brownlee
Freda Smith
Lola Harkness
Karen Dixon

ABSENT —

Marilyn Barclay
Kay Cherrey
Janice Mote

DIRECTORS —

Mesdames D. Noton,
Smith, Lang, Ready

Buffaloes

Jim Cameron
Bill Ready
"Chid" Lovelace
Bill Kowalchuk
Del Murray
Andy Lang

Act IX

(1)—"Three Old Maids"

and

(2)—"You Can't Get A Man With A Gun".

Souris Spinsters

Kaye Thompson

Mrs. E. Webster
(nee Hazel Barlow)

June Hill

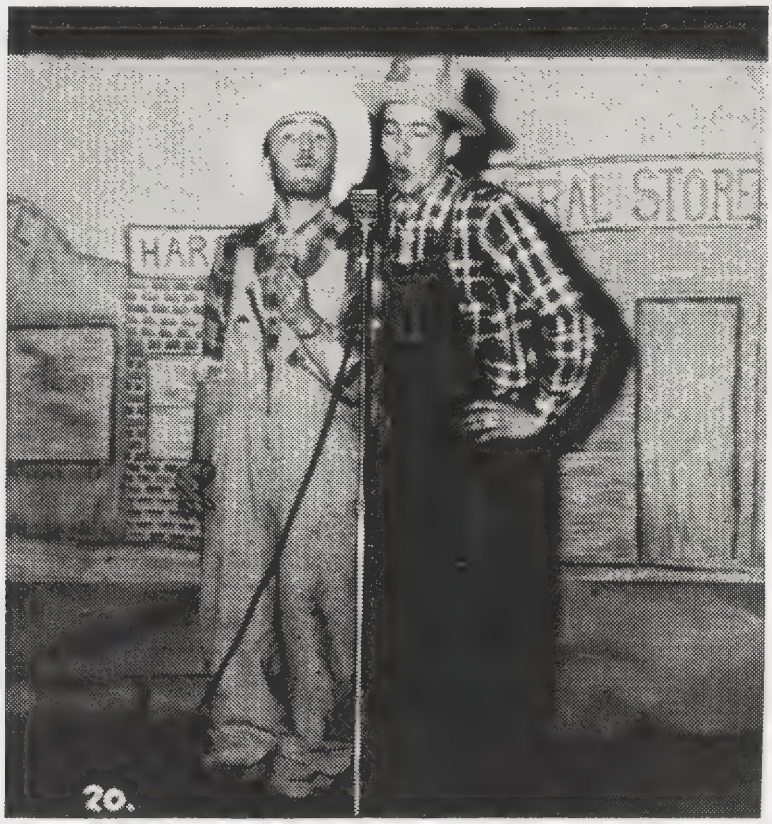
Act X --- *Twinkle Toes*

FRONT ROW—Judy Michie, Margaret Scott, Gail Smith, Donna Prentice, Audrey Wright.
BACK ROW—Polly Styles, Georgina Brown, Trudy Shanks, Brenda Wilson, Pat Curtis.
ABSENT—Joan Tomlinson, Shirley Peacock, Shirley Arrell, D. Wright, J. Collinson, J. B. Arrell.
DIRECTOR—Mrs. F. Philps. COSTUMES—Mrs. J. Diehl.

Act XI --- *Daisy Crockett*

BACK ROW—Clayton Canning, Barry Diehl, Ted Walker, Forrest Brandon, Dave Davison, Jim Kerslake, Reg. Lang, Dr. Sutter, Roy Tanguay, Robert Lorimer. ABSENT—Norman Styles.
READER—Kaye Thompson. ACC.—Mrs. Sangwine.

Act XII



Souris Screwballs

Reg Lang, Barry Diehl

Act XIII

Chorus

(1)—"Oklahoma".

(2)—"Come to the Fair".

Act XIV

Salute to Pioneers

Read by — H. Hicks

Act XIV

Tableau --- "Our Christian Heritage"

FRONT ROW — Dianne Kowalchuk, David Frame, Roydon Stocks, Bette Frame.

SECOND ROW — Douglas Wright, Ruth Kitchen, J. B. Arrell, Margaret Dixon, Geo. Smith, Carol Kowalchuk, Betty Harrap.

BACK ROW — Gwyn Griffith, Jim Collinson, Faye Fradley, Clyde Williamson, Garry Stroud.

Hymn

"NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD."

The Souris Band

FRONT ROW — Bruce Philp, Dr. B. Sutter, John Janz, Roy Tanguay, Walter Collinson, Lloyd Bradley.

BACK ROW — R. Cartiledge, Pat Tanguay, E. Kowalchuk, Betty Kohut, Neil Forsyth, Pat Roney, Dr. Ward, Harvey Lee, Orville Stocks.

The Queen

Will the audience please remain standing until the pioneers are ushered out.

This souvenir program is dedicated to the early settlers of the Souris district . . . the men, women and children who travelled to the banks of Plum Creek and the valley of the Souris River in 1880 - 1884.

Their joys, sorrows, disappointments, and achievements are mingled forever with the good earth of South Western Manitoba.

It is hoped that those who are able to attend the 75th Anniversary will look upon this program as a cherished souvenir, and to those who are not able to be present, we ask you to send a copy of the program:

Musical Memoirs

SUN PRINT, BRANDON, MAN.